



# FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

VOLUME 25 / ISSUE #1

## A FALL WRAP-UP

### THE BOLD & THE BEAUTIFUL

**S**tyle this season encompasses two schools of thought: a continuing romance with soft, graceful dressing, evidenced by sheers and layering; and a return to structured '80s inspired power dressing, in which sharp shoulders, wider cuffed trousers, and short skirts signal this new mood. Throughout the collections there are hints of exotic places.

#### TEXTURE MIXES AND HI-TECH

**RUSSELL BENNETT** keeps his collection small and well edited. His look is young, and quirky with an emphasis on unexpected fabrics and offbeat texture mixes, all in a warm muted palette. Standouts are a

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### THE SPICE OF LIFE

**T**his Fall, accessories provide the spice of life. After too many seasons where minimalism prevailed, the fashion pendulum has once again swung back in the other direction. Many designers have unearthed the best from past decades and updated everything with a modern slant. If RTW is fashion's main course, what's fashion without a touch of seasoning?

**CYNTHIA ROWLEY** went on a journey to Shangri-La and found paradise with a beautifully balanced collection. Her "Lost Horizon" long red coat and jersey dress were worn with red velvet ankle strapped stilettos (Zeitgeist), which made a comeback this season. Cynthia paired bronze satin, ankle-tied stilettos with a slim teal velveteen suit. Stylized cowboy boots with stiletto heels

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CYNTHIA STEELE

classic pinstriped double-breasted pantsuit, fashioned from lining material, and a gray tweed cashmere sweater over jersey pants. **CYNTHIA STEFFE**'s collection is a retailer's dream. Newness deftly combines with commercial appeal in outstanding knits, perforated suede, and high tech materials. Her slim black neoprene knee length coat over black stretch pants could be this season's "Ford." In toffee stretch perforated suede, the V-neck and the drawstring neck dresses are sensational. After dark, there is a lovely copper lace tunic over an olive camisole and copper/fudge beaded mini, and a beaded mesh tunic in peacock that layers over a band bra and pajamas in liquid jersey. Taking us on a journey to the Orient, **HAN FENG** continues to dazzle with her signature look of beautifully cut clothes and lush fabrics. A double-faced asymmetric coat over bi-colored matte jersey tunic and wine stretch wool pants is stunning. As is a bronze double-breasted asymmetric jacket in double-faced gabardine, in combination with a nutmeg Thai silk wrap skirt. **OSCAR DE LA RENTA** likes the interplay of opposing elements — a purple devore velvet dress with a double-faced wool coat, and a slouchy camel cashmere sweater with a camel devore velvet skirt. His stenciled sequin dresses unexpectedly pair with gray flannel and black leather coats.

## MINIMAL, MODERN, MANNISH

**JENNIFER GEORGE** has the minimalist look down pat. What works best — a charcoal wool herringbone zipper coat over a gray silk skirt, a red mohair coat with stand-up collar and a black wool jacket worn with matching



V-neck cashmere sweater and twill trousers. **GIEFFEFFE** by **GIANFRANCO FERRE** delivers beautifully cut coats and crisp modern sportswear including a schoolgirl prim bankers stripe group in brown/white, a brown leather fur collared reefer atop wool trousers, and a Napoleonic influenced maxi coat in velvet. **TOMMY HILFIGER**, king of the all-American collegiate look, presents the Tommy line filled

with young fresh campus classics with an edge. His black down parka is casually worn over a varsity sweatshirt (the University of Tommy?), a striped cotton shirt, rep tie and short plaid skirt; while a navy leather pea coat takes a striped turtleneck and ivory mini. **SUSAN LAZAR** believes in the bold shoulder and the importance of well-cut key pieces. She pairs a tailored navy wool pin-

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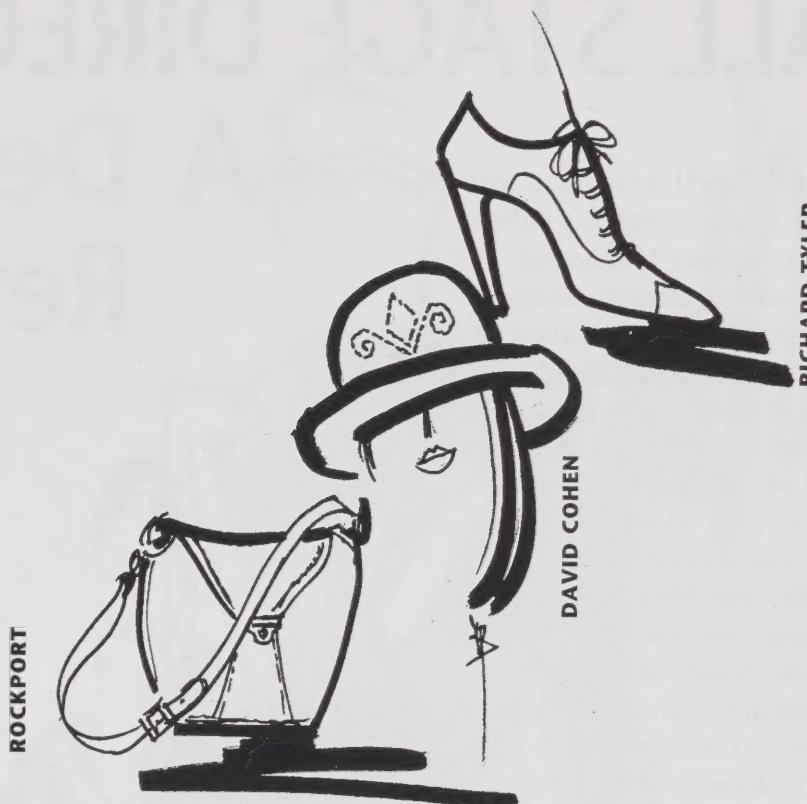
gave an edge to **HOST**'s airy dresses. In pearlized blue or hot pink leather (Gina of London), they were worn with a Lurex georgette, shoulder drape dress and a long bias georgette dress in moonstone. **JOAN & DAVID** raise footwear to new heights with small platforms. The shape is slimmer and elongated, with an emphasis on open footwear. After dark, the ultimate ankle boot comes in brown stretch satin on a high sculpted heel. **NINE WEST** shows open toed sandals in suede, leather, crocodile and velvet.

Legwear played up open work and space-dyed knits, velvet and textured tights, plus sueded spice tone solids and metallics.

**E. G. SMITH** shows space-dyed "Missoni" tights, geometric color blocked knee highs, and flecked multicolored tweeds. Witty accessories were the high point of

**TYLE KENNEDY**'s collection. He showed a gray printed wool flannel dress with a Chinese take-out carton handbag — also in flannel with a gold tone handle (Manigault Gentile). In chestnut brown leather, a Pagoda shape top handled bag was carried with a gray viscose sweater and ruby wool plaid skirt. **ALEXANDRA LIND** accessorized her ladylike collection with jewelry and beaded bags (Erickson Beamon). A plum silk shift was set off by a long bronze chain lariat, which was wound around the neck with the ends left trailing gracefully. A teal satin/purple velvet halter gown was shown with a tiny silver beaded handbag.

**KATSUMI & MALCOLM** delight in combining uncluttered shapes with interesting fabrications. Their black Lurex and wool asymmetric top and pant, was set off by a ruby glass bead lattice-work choker (Fragments).



**VERDURA** combines impeccable craftsmanship with whimsical design. His unique take on precious jewels transformed the look of modern jewelry. His bold signature cuffs set with semi-precious stones in the shape of a Maltese cross is as viable today as it was in Chanel's heyday.

**BADGLEY MISCHKA** understand the dazzle power of fine jewelry. They gave it a younger twist by showing diamond brooches worn as hair ornaments (Fred Leighton) with black crepe tuxedos. A moonstone and diamond parure complemented a moonstone lace slip gown. **COLETTE MALOUF**'s approach to jewelry is more down to earth. She proposes free form hair sticks and hair pins in faux horn, matte gold and copper tone.

**BARRY KIESELSTEIN-CORD** **SPORT** jewelry collection embodies his signature style in sterling, in a variety of motifs. Included are necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and pendants.

In **ELLEN TRACY**'s spit and polish career collection, standouts included an absinthe pea jacket and skirt worn with fitted knee high stiletto heeled boots in olive suede. In black satin, these boots looked chic with a black melton coat, metallic turtleneck and chiffon skirt over gold sequin slip. **KENNETH COLE** also likes the fitted boot. His version comes in brown leather with a block heel and square toe plus inner/outer zipper detail. Loafers come in calf or suede with seam and hardware detailing. **HUSH PUPPIES** grabs the spotlight once again with the addition of a platform to their classic "Earl" loafer in pigskin, then add colorful stripes to the shoe body as well as the sole. Their color blocked "Chelsea" boots are also destined to become classics. **RICHARD TYLER** takes a sexier approach to the laced-up oxford by fashioning his version in ruby glace calf and adding a

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# FALL STAGE DIRECTIONS — A Designer Revue

**ISAAC MIZRAHI**, never at a loss for creativity, showed his collection at the former Manhattan Opera House, currently under construction. With no curtain or scrim, the models had final touches of make-up applied amidst racks of clothes and then stepped off the stage into the audience. This "deconstructive" feeling was echoed in the collection with "shredded sweaters," "raganless" dresses, and "recycled fur" coats. Many of the pieces, with a predominance of wide and full pants, exuded charm in donegal, flannel, and burlap. Other selections, that seem both familiar yet new, include the piano shawl sweater set, antique morning trousers, and "tarnished" velvet dresses. The result — a new age hippie chic appeal.

Forever the minimalist, **CALVIN KLEIN** keeps his silhouette spare, but literally puts a ripple in his clean lines this season. Diagonal folds of fabric momentarily interrupt the bodice and disappear into the continuation of his skirts. Jackets are skinny, often collarless, double-breasted and wrapped, or single-breasted with a high waist seam. The layered tee returns, this time in stretch georgette or textured wool gauze over thin nylon jersey. Fabrics incorporate luxury and technology, such as felted cashmere, stretch flannel and thin wool gauze, voile, crepe, and chiffon. Colors are grayed in tones of peridot, lemon, glass, thistle, mint and vapor, with occasional shots of stronger hues such as cardinal, citrus, nectarine, and cypress.



ISAAC MIZRAHI

**BILL BLASS** presents a strong collection filled with fabric and print interest. Coats stand alone or work over pantsuits and dresses as an ensemble. Texture comes into play early on and continues throughout with velvet: a favorite this season, it is embossed, cut, beaded, burnished, and printed. Animal prints, mostly in naturals, mix with menswear plaids, herringbone and chalk stripes. Color comes alive in the finale, in various column dresses of mauve, plum, Bordeaux, periwinkle, eggplant, and purple/gold ombre.

In homage to the late designer, Halston, the premiere collection of **HALSTON SIGNATURE BY RANDOLPH DUKE** was strictly eveningwear. Duke brought out many of his signature fabrics: his cashmeres were often ribbed and beaded, and used as evening "separates," such as halters, tubes, cardigans, and long skirts. UltraSuede was cut into paillettes and sewn onto chiffon, for cowl neck, halter, and slip gowns. The most modern pieces were made from stretch matte jersey and "tweed beaded" chiffon, with asymmetric cutouts at the neck and shoulders.

**OSCAR DE LA RENTA**, often associated with opulence, didn't let his devotees down this season! Fur trims were omnipresent, and here they're not faux! Mink is the preferred trim, appearing on

everything from a printed ponyskin coat to a wool tweed pantsuit. Daytime looks offer strong shoulders with above the knee skirts (often in leather); evenings feature floor length gowns with plunging necklines. Menswear and animal prints make an appearance, and fabrics are lush — velvet, devore, silk charmeuse, coup de velour and silk chiffon. Embroidered, stenciled, and sequined embellishments add richness.

**CAROLINA HERRERA's** collection, of all the designer collections, was most reminiscent of the '80s, though modern with a clean silhouette. Strong shoulered jackets, slim skirts and fluid pants made up the silhouette with fur trims, animal prints and leather galore. Reptilian textures and prints were a statement in contrasting black/white or black/red combinations. Color was notably absent with black dominating the show for both day and evening — in wool, leather, velvet, and black lace over red chiffon for a cocktail group. Here even the bride wore black!

**BOB MACKIE** knows how to put on a show and he couldn't have picked a better venue than the Shubert theater. Press and retailers forgot the runways as the models and a dancer from the show, "Chicago," presented the collection in the true spirit of Broadway. From the red beaded lace halter jumpsuit to the silver beaded tulle tank gown, these dresses were made for applause. Amid all of the beads and lace were also some demure herringbone cloque suits and silk crepe dresses for those who don't feel that all the world is a stage.



CAROLINA HERRERA

Need a guide to doing business in the New York market — **THE FASHION CENTER BLACK BOOK** is a new comprehensive directory of the industry. Its 300 pages include 5,000 firms from “ad agencies to zippers.” This A-Z reference published by Informat, Inc., retails for \$49.95. For your copy, just direct your feet to either Barnes & Noble, Doubleday, the Fashion Center Kiosk at Seventh Avenue and 39th Street, or look for it at fashion industry trade shows. If you and the Internet are on friendly terms, you may even see directory information updates on the Fashion Center Website. The updates are done weekly and can be found at [www.fashioncenter.com](http://www.fashioncenter.com). To order or place advertising,

**Contact:** 212-398-5505.  
**Press:** Pat Smith  
212-843-8026.

**TENCEL**, introduced by Courtaulds in 1992, is a “natural man-made” fiber offering strength, a soft hand and a good drape. Originally a denim and activewear staple, with a roster of over 200 fabrics, it is fast becoming an addition to bridge as well as high end sportswear collections. Accordingly, this flexible fiber has been repositioning its image in the marketplace. Tencel's new face not only brings a new ad campaign entitled “Tencel®: The Next Generation Fiber,” using bright active photographs of the young and talented in fashions from Joop!, Liz Claiborne Dresses, Jones New York Sport, DKNY, Nautica,

Dockers et al, but also introduces a fabric fair called “Tencel Global Fabric Fair.” This fair, which debuted in April with Spring '98 fabrics from Europe, Asia and the United States, will be held again this coming Fall.

**Contact:** Courtaulds Fibers  
212-944-7400.  
**Press:** Dente & Cristina  
212-941-0430.

**BAUSCH & LOMB** is relaunching **PORSCHE DESIGN®** sunglasses and promoting it to the global market. Directed at men over 30 who adhere to the Porsche philosophy “form follows function,” the collection premieres four new styles combined with three existing looks. The “centerpiece” of the Porsche '97 collection is “Boxster,” a sunglass named for their newest sportster. Boxster's oblong shaped lenses and wrap around frame provide uninhibited peripheral vision. The frames, in anodized black or anodized silver, are ultra light with spring-loaded hinges for comfort. Other new styles offer such interesting pluses as geometric designed metal frames with rare-earth magnets (that retain 99% of power after 50 years) to hold interchangeable lenses, and another with sleek curved metal frames that restricts peripheral light. The latter also has a cantilever technology that allows the wearer to flick open the glasses with one hand. A final masterstroke — this all comes with a one-of-a-kind global warranty registration system found on the Internet in 16 languages.

**Contact:** Debra Jansen  
Bausch & Lomb  
716-338-8470

*or call up*  
[www.porsche-design.com](http://www.porsche-design.com)  
and take a look!

A new collection of smokin' ties from **RALPH MARLIN** feature images of aged cognac and premium cigars. The “Connoisseur” collection plays on the new Cigar Bar chic and consists of three styles — horizontal stripes with alternating cigars and a wide burgundy band; a print with cigars, snifters and musical notes against a black ground; a print with cigar and brandy snifters against an alternating black and gold diamond pattern. For the man who inclines toward the Havana, or even for the trend loving healthy type, these ties are intended to run rings around the paisleys.

**Contact:** Dennis Abramczyk  
414-369-8800.  
**Press:** Fineburg Publicity  
212-686-7820.

**WATERFORD** has presented us with triplets! The home of fine crystal tableware and gift items recently introduced Waterford Writing Instruments. Featuring deep diamond cut patterns, The Powerscourt, The Lismore, and the Carleton all come in ball-point, roller ball and fountain pen styles. Beautifully designed, the fountain pens even feature 18 karat gold nibs. These pens are not inexpensive, at a suggested retail price of \$145-\$295, but are guaranteed for the lifetime of the original purchaser against mechanical failure or faulty material or workmanship. Awarded exclusive worldwide rights to manufacture and distribute the collection, the Lodis Corporation of Los Angeles has received the

sculpted stiletto heel. After dark, he proposes ankle strapped stilettos in champagne silk crepe or brown suede/satin combinations. **SISLEY BY BENETTON** takes a young '70s approach to footwear. Black or burgundy suede platforms get ankle straps and chunky high heels. Their chestnut suede hobo, with new shorter shoulder strap and silver hardware, fits this mood nicely.

**DAVID COHEN** shows fur felt rollers in moss and mushroom, simply detailed with either stitching or perforations. In **JOAN VASS'** superb collection her signature hat this season is the "Pulcinello" knit, tasseled cap. This was seen throughout her show — with a brown shearling coat and tweed knit dress, a black velvet shirt and satin trousers, etc. Her other shape is the "Swirl," a knitted cuffed cap. Vass liked this paired with a double-faced reversible smock coat, tunic and plaid mini.

**ROCKPORT** has expanded into leather accessories. Their "Refined" collection features smart, top handled flap bags, a flap over bucket and other good looking

styles. The "Relaxed" range, in leather trimmed nubuck, comes in stunning shapes like a top handled backpack and a flap over camera bag. "Rugged" is a casual suede group in loads of easy shapes like slings and mini fisherman bags.

**GLEN MILLER FOR ANN TURK** takes a sophisticated retro approach. His top handled styles are in exotic leathers of ostrich, lizard and stingray. Each piece is trimmed with stylish ornamental metal frames and Deco style hardware. **FRANCHI** shows polished leather shoulder bags in black with equestrian hardware in tortoise or tobacco with burl accents. His East/West full flap microfiber bag in olive, camel or chocolate, is also accented with burl hardware. Franchi's take on the past includes '20s inspired chenille bags, some with beaded fringe trim. **A/X ARMANI EXCHANGE** took a casual approach to Fall by sending out a soft flap over suede handbag with a pinstriped gray flannel pantsuit. A rugged brown leather shopper tote with outside pocket was paired with a dramatic brown corduroy maxi coat and A-line skirt.

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stripe car coat and "boy" pants, while a camel's hair corduroy reefer coat complements a black stretch twill blazer, trousers and a merino halter turtleneck.

## TOPPERS & TOUCHES TO TALK ABOUT

**BILL BLASS** likes his animal beaded slip dress worn nonchalantly with a camel hair polo coat. The velvets are outstanding. Especially attractive is an "Autumn" embroidered pantsuit that is collared and cuffed in fur. In an interesting new twist on layering, he places an ombre chiffon paneled maxi duster over a periwinkle velvet shaped, double-breasted pantsuit. Layering is also the look of the season at **BALLANTYNE CASHMERE**.

There is a striking, long slim A-line skirt, crew neck sweater and shawl in dusty grape. The latter reverses to a delicate shade of "Degas" mauve. A simple long sleeved shift in chocolate looks elegant with a matching fringed muffler. **CAROLINA HERRERA**'s collection is at its peak when she keeps elegance uppermost in mind. This translates to a dusty blue/brown plaid double-faced coat over brown cashmere pants. After dark her leopard printed chiffons are beautifully fluid and sensuous. Newcomer

**WYNN SMITH** has yet to find his own voice. In his collection, **WYNN**, that is a pastiche of Jil Sander, Alexander McQueen and Helmut Lang, what works well is his zip-front belted, blue bias plaid coat over soft navy pants, and a sheer black, long beaded mesh slip dress worn over an opaque thigh high liner.

**NICOLE MILLER** is on track with

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second licensing agreement to ever be granted by Waterford.

**Contact:** David Cooper  
310-470-2855

Breezing into the Summer, we bring your attention to the "The Original Cork Watch" — the watch that floats! Manufactured by **NICE USA, Inc.**, this watch is waterproof at 100 feet, anti-allergic, and environmentally friendly. Coming in five very

attractive styles, that offer Italian design and Swiss craftsmanship, they retail for \$49-\$159. Awarded Watch and Clock Review's 1997 Most Innovative Watch Design, Nice International is putting out a watch that lives up to their name.

**Contact:** Tom Peraza  
212-462-4925.

her interpretation of the trends, particularly in a rust wool tweed coat over a matching stretch silk charmeuse dress, and a group of beautiful beaded long slim dresses in georgette or jersey.

**YEOHLEE**'s harmonious balance of relaxed elegance and Nomadic influences combines a khaki cashmere "Scholar" coat and pant with a muted gold metallic sheer silk crew neck top; while a matte gray leather, belted wrap coat tones down the glitter of a navy sparkle bias dress.

## OPULENCE FOR DAY OR EVENING

**TODD OLDHAM** always puts on a show worthy of Hollywood. Brightly beaded in a crewel floral motif is a long black velvet slip

gown. Faux mink trims his ivory crop cardigan worn with brightly jeweled cigarette pants. For day, a white cabled maxi sweater looks great topping the new wide pants in a leopard print. Although **DONALD DEAL** introduces daywear for Fall, it's his eveningwear that shines brightest. Simply lovely were a group of long dresses with studded cashmere bodices and charmeuse skirts, in gray, black, red and brown. This season, **BETSEY JOHNSON** proves she can do more than shock. Her Ultra collection is aimed at a sophisticated woman. Her silk charmeuse "Cabaret" slip gown gets jet beading and a bias chiffon, godet skirt. **MARINA ROSSI**'s strength lies in her airy crochet knits epitomized by a sexy sleeveless crochet lace inset evening dress in pumpkin and steel. **ANTONIO GARCIA**

believes in the power of couture quality workmanship. His social occasion dresses follow in the tradition of Charles James. A black razmir gown with bateau neck and sculpted bodice has a draped front and slim skirt that sweeps back into a train. Also in black razmir is a slim trumpet skirted gown with draped torso, accented with a self bow and crisscross back straps. In a collection inspired by Russia during the time of Peter the Great, **MARY McFADDEN** places a premium on opulence: a hand painted coat awash in color, a green hand painted jacket over a red bias skirt, a regal black cut velvet gown, and an exquisite group of silver/black embroidered gowns with velvet or chiffon skirts.

## INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

JUNE 1-4	NEW YORK	JUNE 20-24	LOS ANGELES
FFANY (Footwear)		FALL MARKET (Women's)	
JUNE 2-13	NEW YORK	JUNE 20-22	FLORENCE
HOLIDAY MARKET		PITTI IMMAGINE BIMBO (Children's)	
JUNE 5-9.	DALLAS	JUNE 20-23	HONG KONG
FALL MARKET (Women's)		APPAREL/JEWELRY/WATCH FAIR	
JUNE 9-11	NEW YORK	JUNE 22-24	NEW YORK
HBA GLOBAL (Health/Beauty/Personal Care)		THE NEW NAMSB (Men's/Boys')	
JUNE 12-16	ATLANTA	JUNE 26-29	FLORENCE
FALL MARKET (Women's)		PITTI IMMAGINE UOMO (Men's)	

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(FASHION CALENDAR/  
INTERNATIONAL)

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1 Year Subscription \$100  
Outside USA \$110

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VOL. XXV, NO. 1  
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FASHION INTERNATIONAL